

## Queen Victoria - The 'Provisional' Issue (1880-1881).

At the termination of the stamp printing contract with Perkins, Bacon & Co, the four Line Engraved  $\frac{1}{2}d$ , *1d*,  $1\frac{1}{2}d$ , and *2d* stamps were replaced by new designs printed using a 'surface printing' technique rather than the time consuming recess printing method. The new printers were De La Rue.



991 dies

The first value to be introduced was the *1d Venetian Red* on *1<sup>st</sup> January 1880*. This was the only stamp in the series to retain the corner letters signifying the position of the stamp on the printed sheet. For some reason, the 1d Venetian Red quickly acquired the nick-name, '*Penny Dreadful*'.

The  $\frac{1}{2}d$  and  $1\frac{1}{2}d$  values followed on *14<sup>th</sup> October 1880*, and the *2d* on *8<sup>th</sup> December 1880*. To complete the issue, a new *5d* value was introduced on *15<sup>th</sup> March 1881*, intended to pre-pay the 1oz double-rate to India and China.



793 dies



329 dies



338 dies



165 dies

Note that the stamps in this series, and indeed all subsequent issues, no longer had visible plate numbers incorporated into their design - something which has endured through to this day.

The same basic information is presented below in tabular form.

TOTALS for 1880-1881 issue.				
	DD			DDF
Overall >	1,607			2,616
		$\frac{1}{2}d$	Green	793
		1d	Venetian red	991
		$1\frac{1}{2}d$	Venetian red	329
		2d	Rose	338
		5d	Indigo	165

The above table summarises *all known G.B. Perfin dies* found on the *Queen Victoria 'Provisional' Issue* - correct to *1<sup>st</sup> July 2018*.  
In view of the large quantities involved, no specific list of Perfin dies has been included.